

UPPER ARLINGTON

50c

Updated daily: www.ThisWeekNews.com

February 4, 2010

Library board appointments questioned

By MICHAEL J. MAURER
ThisWeek Contributor

When it came time to appoint board members of the Upper Arlington Public Library, nearly all of the residents who were interested submitted their applications by the deadline published by the city — except for the three who were actually appointed, all of whom prepared their applications nearly two months late and within a few days of each other.

The new members — Garrett Scanlon, Mark Shy and Krista Sisterhen — all completed their applications between Jan. 6 and Jan. 9. Council president Frank Ciotola made the appointments Jan. 10 and they were seated on the board on Jan. 26.

Ciotola, whose prerogative is to make the appointments, said he wishes a deadline had not been published.

“It’s nothing new to accept applications up to the time we make the appointments,” Ciotola said. “I did sug-

gest that we not put a deadline in the paper, and I think going forward we won’t do that. I think it was just a way to bring closure to the process.”

Upper Arlington resident Scott Dybiec questioned the fairness of accepting applications after the fact, when at least 16 others, including incumbent board members Brian Perera and John Magill, had all met the deadline. Five of the applicants submitted on the deadline, Nov. 16.

“Bill Shikurti, for example, is a 20-year veteran at Ohio State,” Dybiec said. “He’s the administrator of the school’s finances for more than two decades. I don’t know if you could have someone better to pass a library levy.

“Brian (Perera) works for the Ohio senate as finance director (majority caucus). This is what a trustee is for — for levies, finances, their connections in the community.

“Why is this important?” Dybiec said. “Any impression of backroom

dealing is detrimental. Government needs to work in the public interest. In terms of the library’s mission, we had a social conservative demanding removal of materials from the library. I became concerned that it’s one viewpoint on the board.”

Dybiec said he understood that there is no formal deadline in any regulations and that the council president has full discretion to make appointments.

Ciotola said he would like to explore moving the timing of appointments to the library board to a later time in the calendar, because there is not enough time between council being organized at the beginning of the year and the time when the library board has its organizational meeting.

Garrett Scanlon, a 16-year resident of the city, is a partner in Casto Commercial Real Estate. Krista Sisterhen, a 12-year resident, is president of the Columbus Stewardship Foundation. Mark Shy is a 12-year resident and president of Renovators Incorporated.

2009-2010 Library Board of Trustees application submission dates

Newly seated library board members Garrett Scanlon, Mark Shy and Krista Sisterhen were the only residents to submit their applications after the published deadline.

